

**FISHER ISLAND MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
COMMITTEE MEETING**

UNAPPROVED MINUTES FOR
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2005

FISHER ISLAND TENNIS CENTER

1. Call to Order

With MAC Chairperson, Ira Ostrow presiding, the February 23, 2005 Fisher Island MAC meeting was called to order at 6:05 PM.

2. Role Call

Present were the following:

Carolyn Sakolsky
Jorge Garcia
Robert Vole
Javier Acosta
Ira Ostrow

3. Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of the 1/26/05 meeting were distributed to MAC members and to Jason Rodriguez. Those minutes will be reviewed and approved at the next meeting.

Mr. Ostrow called a motion to approve the Minutes of the 12/15/04 meeting. The motion was called and seconded a vote was taken and the Minutes were approved.

4. Pending Business

Mr. Ostrow calls attention to the letter written by Carolyn Sakolsy to Jason Rodriguez regarding the Miami-Dade Police Department.

Mr. Ostrow gave a brief update on how the proposal from the Miami-Dade Police Department had been unsatisfactory as it was considered to be much more than what the MAC considers necessary for the Island. The proposal would cost over \$2 million and involved much more officers than originally discussed. Originally the department had said they would present three different proposals and instead they came up with only one and said they had to maintain that offer and would not consider any other offers at this time.

The letter written by Sakolsky to Jason Rodriguez was read by Mr. Ostrow and entered into public record. The letter basically requests that Mr. Rodriguez request an update proposal from the Miami-Dade Police Department in writing that reflects the needs of the Island taking into consideration that there is very little public land that will need police coverage, as the Island is privately owned.

Follow-Up: Jason Rodriguez explains that yesterday morning he requested an update from Capt. O'Donnell of the Miami-Dade Police Department regarding said letter and he was given a response letter sent to Sakolsky dated 2/18/05, acknowledging receipt of the letter and stating that the police department is in the process of reevaluating their original staffing proposal previously submitted to the MAC. Mr. Rodriguez read the letter aloud.

Ms. Sakolsky informed she has not received the response letter as of yet.

5. New Business - Pro Forma Budget for the Incorporated Fisher Island

Mr. Ostrow asks Mr. Rodriguez where to begin.

Rodriguez refers to sample documents he provided MAC members previously to assist in preparing the Pro Forma Budget for Fisher Island. Rodriguez also explained that the MAC can form a budget subcommittee with only certain members of the MAC responsible for putting the pro forma budget together. These meetings can be held in the same manner but would be more like workshops. The meetings have to be advertised. The subcommittee can work on dialogue and fact gathering and then present it to the MAC.

Ostrow discusses that the feasibility study that was completed by Dr. Dluhy already contains a lot of the budget information necessary for the pro forma budget. Additionally, he discusses the fact that Fisher Island has separate operating entities such as the Fisher Island Club with its own budget, dues, board and expenditures; the Fisher Island Community Association, which collects monies from the unit owners and has its own budget and board covering common areas, ferry transportation and security; as well as building associations each with their own maintenance, functions, expenditures and boards. These entities will not be affected.

Carolyn Sakolsky explains that the pro forma budget will be very simple because Fisher Island will not be taking any public taxes due the island being a private island.

Jorge Garcia felt that the feasibility study has the numbers needed and that it would be very simple to use those numbers as a preliminary budget.

Mr. Ostrow suggests that the next MAC meeting date be selected and a meeting date for the Budget Subcommittee be selected as well.

March 30th was set as the next meeting date for the MAC.

Mr. Ostrow requests that when Jason Rodriguez sends out the copies of the Sakolsky letter and response he also sends out the meeting announcement to all MAC members.

Ostrow asks Rodriguez what other major issue is of vast importance to the MAC. Rodriguez responded that the next step is the Conceptual Agreement.

Carolyn Sakolsky says she can come up with a Conceptual Agreement that can be discussed and polished at a subcommittee meeting.

Rodriguez explains that the pro forma budget and the conceptual agreement are interrelated. He will ask the police department if they can be ready for the meeting of March 30th. Rodriguez reminded the MAC that he is only a liaison for the MAC.

Sub-committee meetings will be: Monday, March 7th and 28th at 10:30 a.m. at Cafe Tangier for the Pro Forma Budget. The meeting of the 7th for a draft and the 28th to smooth things out before the MAC meeting of the 30th.

Subcommittee for the budget: Jorge Garcia, Javier Acosta, Ira Ostrow and Robert Vole.

Subcommittee for the conceptual agreement: Jorge Garcia, Javier Acosta, Ira Ostrow, Carolyn Sakolsky and Robert Vole.

It is stated for the record that Mr. Charouhis and Mr. Pierce are excused from the meeting as they were not given enough notice of the meeting. Mr. Ostrow expresses concern that meeting notices must go out with more time.

Rodriguez informs the MAC that the Board of County Commissioners has passed a resolution to hire an independent entity that specializes in budgets to review the budgets presented by MACs.

Rodriguez advises that any information on resolutions can be looked up at miamidade.gov

6. Questions

Q: Bob Zukowski asks if there is a piece of land available for public records to be off island.

Ostrow states that Fisher Island owns the ferry terminal on the mainland under the developer. However, when and if the developer leaves the island the property is turned over to the community.

Carolyn Sakolsky says that terminal is already incorporated to Miami Beach.

Mr. Ostrow explains that he has discussed this with the Commissioner and that a special ordinance can be created.

Ms. Sakolsky says she doesn't see how this can be legally done.

Mr. Ostrow says on the date you become a new community that property can be transferred over.

Ms. Sakolsky feels that this is something that should be secured prior to incorporation because it has to do with the privacy of the island.

Rodriguez agrees with Carolyn Sakolsky.

Mr. Ostrow will begin to work immediately on this issue in order to create a firm resolution.

Q: The question is asked, if the incorporation goes through is privacy of the community guaranteed?

A: What is private now remains private regardless of incorporation. The island will not be taking public monies and therefore remains private.

Comment: It would be a shame to have someone challenge the privacy the minute incorporation goes through.

Mr. Ostrow explains that there is no reason not to maintain privacy as long as the town hall is off island. The example is Indian Creek.

The question is raised as to what would be some Capital projects of the new municipality. What would monies be used for?

Mr. Ostrow explains that the municipality would have the power to acquire additional facilities and property.

Jason Rodriguez takes this opportunity to highlight the importance of clarifying the revenues and expenses on the pro forma budget and the clarification of the privacy issue. When the issue goes before the Board of Commissioners those will be public meetings and MAC members will be looked to for answers. Therefore it is very important to have these issues clearly stated.

7. **Next MAC Meeting:** Wednesday, March 30, 2005; 6 PM
Agenda will be presentation of sub committees for Pro Forma Budget and Conceptual Agreement; tentatively new proposal from Miami-Dade Police Dept.
8. **Adjournment:** Motion was made for adjournment and seconded and the meeting was adjourned.